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in the presence of internasal scuta, and should be referred to the genus *Gyalopium* Cope, of which it is the second species. It was described some years ago[1] as *Ficimia publia* Cope. The Pseudoficimia pulchra is the *Geagras frontalis* Cope,[2] the difference from the other species of Geagras figured on the same plate, *i. e.*, the separation of the nasal from the preocular by an interspace not being of generic value. Scolecophis Fitz., should be *Scolecophis* Cope, who first described the genus. Homalocranium D. & B., is *Tantilla* B. & G., of prior date. Here should come the genus Enulius Cope, which is truly glyphodont, though the authors of this work assert the contrary. Ogmius should also be placed near to Stenorhina in the glyphodont series.—*E. D. C.*

CHAMBERLAIN'S GEOLOGY OF WISCONSIN[3].—This is not only one of our best State reports, but one of the most valuable and interesting. Beginning to look casually over the first part of Vol. I, entitled General Geology, by the chief geologist, we expected to find the usual résumé for popular use, but while it is entertaining, for it held our attention from its able summary of the whole story, it will continue to have permanent value from its discussion of the Archæan age as well as the Glacial epoch. We should unhesitatingly recommend any beginner or advanced student in geology to read this part of Vol. I in connection with his geological manuals.

The candid, well-balanced mind of the chief geologist is seen throughout the entire narrative as well as in the discussions and references to the opinions and works of others. It is evident that the survey has been in good directive hands, while the reports of the assistants prove that the details have been carefully and skillfully elaborated. The people of Wisconsin are to be congratulated on the results of such excellent work, and on having them presented in a simple, intelligible form.

Beginning with the hypothetical and pre-Laurentian history of Wisconsin and of North America in general, which is discussed in a fresh and comprehensive way, we find a good sketch of the Archæan age, which seems to us, in some points, more satisfactory than that given in the text-books. To be sure nearly every point of interest connected with this age is under debate. Professor Chamberlain, however, adopts Selwyn's view that the upper portion of the Laurentian, *i. e.*, those strata bearing the great beds of limestone and iron, as well as graphite, belong in reality to a later or Huronian age. "All the facts thus far disclosed in Wisconsin support this view, which, pending the results of investigations which must yet occupy some years, we shall assume to be the correct one. The Archæan limestone and iron-ore beds of New York are likewise considered to be Huronian."

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[1] Proceeds. Phila. Acad., 1866, p. 126.

[2] Loc. cit., p. 142; *Toluca frontalis*, Proceeds. Phila. Acad., 1864, p. 167.

[3] *Geology of Wisconsin. Survey of 1873–79.* Vols. I–IV. Atlas of maps. Vols. I, IV, 1882 '3. 8vo.

Succeeding the Huronian, a great formation, 40,000 or 45,000 feet in thickness, of which probably three-fourths is igneous material, and known locally as the Keewenawan period, is described. This is supposed to represent the Acadian rocks of the Atlantic border of New England and the provinces, and probably the Lower Cambrian formations of Great Britain and Bohemia.

The author discards the term period, and we think more logically regards the Laurentian and Huronian as ages, remarking: "In standard works on geology it is customary to dismiss all that precedes this era with a few pages devoted to the Laurentian and Huronian *periods*. In some, indeed, the latter age is not even separately recognized. When best considered these divisions are ranked as periods, and thus placed in the category of formations that often measure fewer hundreds of feet than these do thousands. Even in the more extended views presented in this sketch, relative injustice is done the earlier eras. In discussing the Laurentian, measuring as it does accumulations many thousands of feet in thickness, we only consider it as a whole, making no attempt at even an enumeration of the subordinate periods of deposition that marks its history. Even in describing the Huronian system we barely enumerate the successive thick deposits, though they embrace rich and varied accumulations of ore, carbon and lime, besides common detritus. Were these unmodified members of the later systems, they would doubtless be ranked as important periods, and the whole Huronian system would be graded as the equivalent of the Devonian age, or perhaps of the Mesozoic era."

For these and other reasons we like, on the whole, the author's tabular view of the geological eras, ages, periods and epochs.

The portion relating to the Quaternary age, particularly, gives a most useful and clear summary of glacial geology, especially in the Wisconsin and adjoining areas. Two glacial epochs are described, their existence clearly proven, and the colored restorations or theoretical maps of the two periods will be found to be most useful and timely. We have nowhere met with a clearer and more comprehensive exposition of the subject, and the proof that the great lakes were mainly excavated by ice seems, contrary to our own impression, quite reasonable. Space will not permit us to notice the work of the able collaborators of this survey, especially that of Mr. R. D. Irving, the late Moses Strong, Mr. R. P. Whitfield, Professors L. C. Wooster and F. H. King, and others. As they stand, the four volumes of this survey are a notable addition to our geological literature.

U. S. FISH COMMISSIONERS' REPORT FOR 1880.[1]—The annual reports of the U. S. Fish Commission reach us each year, of just

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[1] *U. S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries.* Part VIII. Report of the Commission [S. F. Baird] for 1880. Washington, 1883. 8vo, pp. 1060.